



MAN GOES EXTRA MILE TO MAKE ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN N.O.

One local organization that is making strides to reduce energy costs is Green Light New Orleans, a non-profit group operating in the Greater New Orleans area and expanding into the Lusher and Gramercy areas.

Started in the wake of Hurricane Katrina by Swiss musician-turned New Orleans resident Andreas Hoffmann, the group's mission is to reduce the carbon footprint in the city while educating residents on the value of Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) as a smart alternative to energy-draining incandescent bulbs. After Katrina's devastating effects in 2005, Hoffman wanted to make a positive difference in the city's rebirth.

"I had to do something to help New Orleans get back on its feet again," he said. With memories of the free recycling and conservation-wide mindset of his native Switzerland, Hoffmann began changing out light bulbs around town, realizing that switching to CFLs could be just one step in the right direction to slow global warming and reduce energy costs. With the mission of "lowering New Orleans' energy usage one light bulb at a time," he began Green Light New Orleans and undertook an extensive search for volunteers and funding.

Green Light's service is primarily aimed at low- to middle-income New Orleans residents who have recently returned to the city. Since many of these residents have health, work and household repair priorities, replacing light bulbs is not a top concern for them. However, once residents realize that they can see an immediate savings if they replace their incandescent bulbs with CFLs, Green Light receives a request for a house call. After a request is made, Green Light representatives assemble a volunteer team which goes out to the home and installs the CFLs free of charge.

With sponsorships from Entergy, Coca-Cola, People's Health, and the New Orleans Saints, among others, Green Light purports that changing 3 million bulbs will save \$135 million in electricity while reducing CO2 emissions dramatically. According to Energy Star, if every household in the United States replaced one light bulb with a CFL, it would prevent enough pollution to equal removing 800,000 cars from the road. Since a CFL uses 75 percent less energy than an incandes-

cent bulb and lasts approximately 10 times longer, your home's energy bill will be lower. Each CFL saves the user more than \$45 over the lifetime of the bulb. Additionally, the organization notes that if every American household switched one bulb with a CFL, the country would see a savings of \$600 million per year in energy costs. This would be the equivalent of lighting 3 million homes for an entire year.

According to Hoffmann, Green Light installs about 1,000 CFLs per day. To date, they have installed over 132,000 bulbs at a savings equivalent of over \$6 million.

To volunteer or find out more information, please go to www.greenlightneworleans.org or call (504) 324-2429.



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